

Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge Celebrates 50 Years!

Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, the wetland mecca of Utah's west desert, will celebrate a 50th "birthday" this year! A lot of water has passed "under the water control structure" during that time and we invite all interested members of the public to join us in recognizing this august milestone. Many things have changed over the years but the commitment of the Refuge to providing outstanding wildlife habitat and protecting the biodiversity of this desert oasis has not.

To celebrate this notable benchmark, we will be hosting an exciting opportunity for natural history fans. Billed as a weekend of Wildlife, Wildlands, and History, this opportunity will provide visitors a chance to discover the very diverse array of natural history study that can be found by visiting the Refuge. Much more than just a haven for wildlife, the Refuge is a bastion of natural history in the broad context of the term.

Wildlife, Wildlands, and History will offer natural history seminars in six different topics dealing with the natural history of the Refuge and the environs surrounding it. They will offer a unique opportunity to natural history lovers to spend time in the field with experts who are intimately familiar with the topics listed.

Participants will accompany instructors for three-four hour classes in any of three sessions (two on Saturday, one Sunday). A potluck dinner is scheduled for 6:30 PM on Saturday. There will be a "campfire" presentation by Refuge Manager Jay Banta as well as a few "surprise" speakers. It is sure to be a fun evening with some very memorable reminiscing about 50 years of providing critical wildlife habitat in the most unlikely of places and you won't want to miss this rare opportunity.

The level of instruction is suitable for anyone with a sincere interest in learning more about the Refuge. The seminars are designed to promote dialog and the exchange of ideas among the participants and faculty.

The dates for the seminars are Saturday May 9th, 8 AM to approximately 9 PM. This time includes two field seminar sessions, the potluck dinner, and the after dinner presentations. The third field seminar session will be held Sunday, May 11th from 8 AM to noon. We will hold the seminars rains or shine so come prepared for the possibility of precipitation.

The Refuge is located approximately 135 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. Commuting time is approximately 3.5 hours from Salt Lake City, with half of that distance being gravel roads. From Delta it is approximately 1.5 hours driving with 22 miles being gravel road.

Registered participants will be permitted to camp on the Refuge at designated sites on Friday May 8th and Saturday May 9th. All camping sites offered are primitive. The registration deadline is Friday May 1. Each session is limited to a maximum of 20 participants and we expect many to fill quickly. Registrants should indicate a second and third choice for each session if they want to have the best chance of attending three different seminars. Space remaining in any seminars may be filled at the beginning of that session. Only by pre-registration can you be guaranteed space in any seminar! You will receive notification confirming your registration.

CLASSED OFFERED

1. Fish Springs Archaeology
2. Fish Springs Geology
3. Fish Springs Field Botany
4. Terrestrial Birds of Fish Springs
5. Aquatic Birds of Fish Springs
6. Fish Springs: Crossroad of History

INSTRUCTOR

Rachel Quist
Matt Affolter
Rodd Hardy
Terry Sadler
Tom Neuman
Jay Banta & Joe Nardone

FACULTY

Matt Affolter is a geologist for the Utah Geological Survey, working on the West Desert Ground-Water Monitoring Project since 2007. Matt got his B.S. from UCLA and his M.S. from the University of Montana. Matt is originally from Owens Valley in California.

Jay Banta has served as the Refuge Manager at Fish Springs for 18 years. He has a B.S. in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State Univ. in Calif. He enjoys Utah history and is an avid student of the Lincoln Highway.

Rodd Hardy, a native of Mesquite, Nevada has worked as a Range Specialist with the Bureau of Land Management for 30 years and has been at the Salt Lake Field Office since 1990. He obtained a degree in Botany from BYU and did some graduate work in Range Ecology at Utah State University

Joe Nardone has spent the last 25 years, full time, studying and marking the Pony Express Trail and sites. He is considered “The World’s Foremost Pony Express Historian”. He will be co-teaching with Jay Banta and has great expertise on a number of historic trails in addition to the Pony Express.

Tom Neuman has an educational background is in Chemistry and Ecological Biology and works in the non-metal mining business. He is an avid “birder”, and has led birding tours at every Fish Springs NWR open house during the last 15 years. He is particularly interested in developing opportunities for the public to view and enjoy wildlife.

Rachel Quist serves as Cultural Resource Management Officer and Native American Coordinator at the 798,214 acres US Army Dugway Proving Ground. Rachel has a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology from the University of Utah where her thesis focused on an archaeological investigation of a Pony Express and Lincoln Highway site on Fish Springs. Rachel is a past recipient of the Utah Antiquities Award presented by the Utah Division of State History for her exemplary service to the archaeology of Utah.

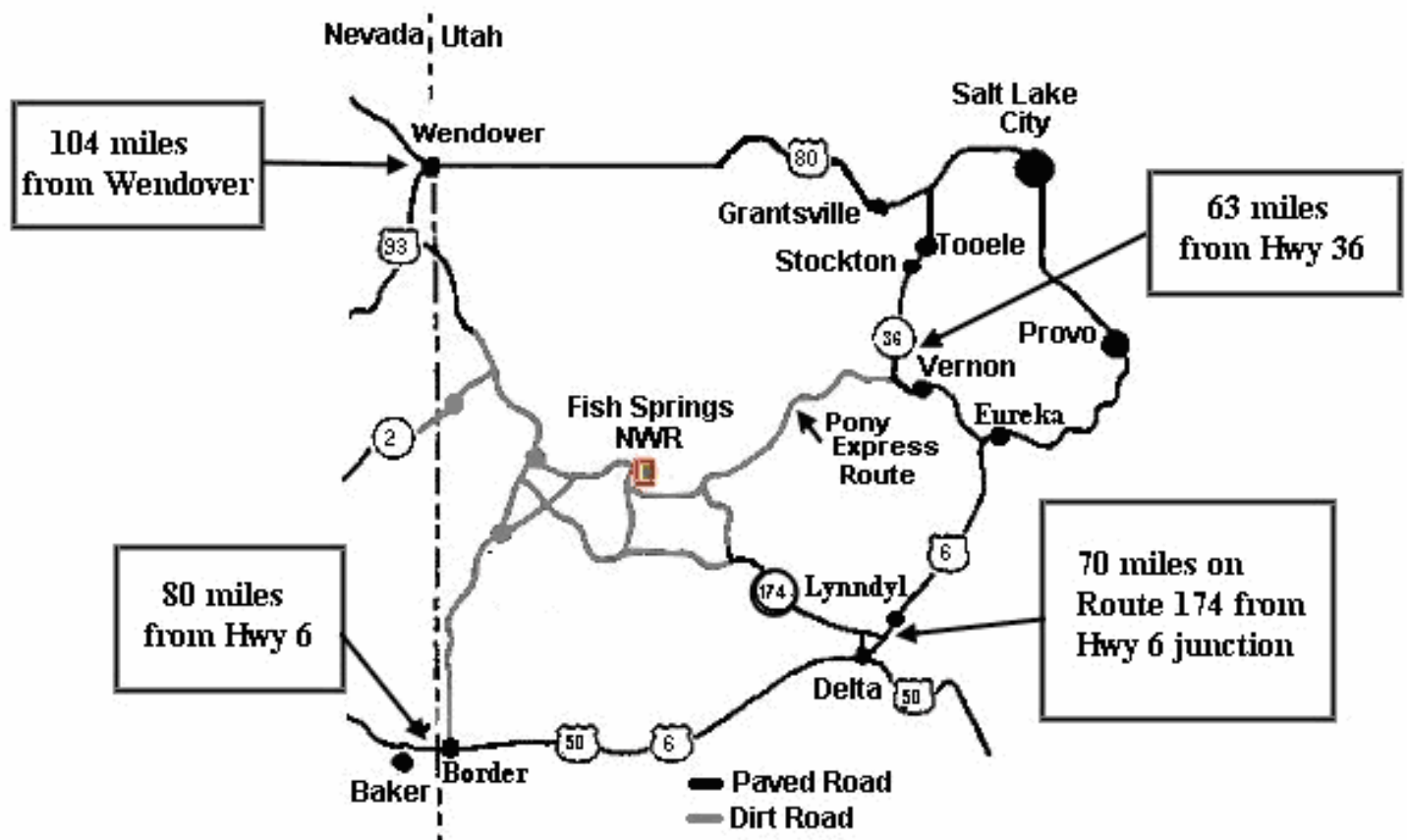
Terry Sadler has degrees from the University of Utah in Zoology and Public Health. He studied Ornithology under the renowned Dr. William Behle. He has served on the Bird Records Committee for the State of Utah and helped develop the Utah Bird Checklist. He has led numerous birding field trips the past twenty years and now enjoys the challenge of bird photography.

What To Bring?

binoculars	field guides (optional)	rain gear
groceries	flashlight	shelter (tent or RV)
camera (optional)	hand lens	sleeping bags
chairs	hat or sun-visor	sturdy shoes
insect repellent	sun screen	personal articles
warm clothing	notebooks & pencils	
contribution to potluck dinner		

Questions? Please call the Refuge from 7 a.m. to 4:30 pm, M—F.
(435) 831-5353 or contact us by email at fishsprings@fws.gov

Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 568
Dugway, UT 84022
<http://www.fws.gov/fishsprings>.



Please fill out this form and return to:

Fish Springs NWR
P.O. Box 568
Dugway, UT 84022

Remember that the registrations must be received by Friday May 1 to ensure pre-registration in any session. Please include either a telephone number and/or an email address in case we should need to contact you regarding your registration.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate a first, second and third choice for each session. Class size is limited to 20 and will be filled on a first come/first served basis.

Session I May 9

____ Land Birds
____ Aquatic Birds
____ FS Botany
____ FS Crossroads

Session II May 9

____ Archeology
____ Geology
____ FS Botany
____ FS Crossroads

Session III May 10

____ Land Birds
____ Aquatic Birds
____ Archeology
____ Geology